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1968/11/19



Department of State

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TELEGRAM

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O 191053Z NOV 68 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4681
INFO RUFNCR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 2944
STATE GRNC
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~~SECRET~~ SAIGON 43016

NODIS/HARVAN/DOUBLE PLUS

PARIS FOR HARRIMAN AND VANCE

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 91-510

By ju, NARA, Date 6-4-92

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LATEST GVN REDRAFT US STATEMENT HANDED
US NOVEMBER 19:

1. BEGIN TEXT. THIS STATEMENT IS DESIGNED TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ABOUT A NEW MEETING IN PARIS.
2. DURING THE EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE REPRESENTATIVES, UNITED STATES SPOKESMEN MADE CLEAR THAT THE STOPPING OF BOMBING AND THE HOLDING OF THE FUTURE MEETING WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT AGREED PROVISION FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AS A SEPARATE DELEGATION FORMING WITH THE US DELEGATION ONE SIDE OF THE MEETING. UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS MADE CLEAR TO HANOI THAT IT MIGHT BRING ON ITS SIDE OF THE TABLE ANY PERSONS IT WISHED.
3. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL AND INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD BRING TO THE MEETING MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT.
4. THIS WAS AND IS THE SOLE AGREEMENT CONCERNING REPRESENTATION IN THE NEW PARIS MEETINGS.
5. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTS THE ARRANGEMENTS AGREED IN PARIS PROVIDE IN ESSENCE FOR A TWO-SIDED MEETING. HANOI CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THAT OUR SIDE WILL BE CONSTITUTED AS SEPARATE DELEGATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES.
6. WHAT EVER OTHERS MAY CLAIM, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT AGREED AND WILL NOT AGREE A FOUR-SIDED OR FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE.
7. CONSISTENT WITH OUR VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT, WE WILL REGARD AND TREAT ALL THE PERSONS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE--WHATEVER THEY MIGHT CLAIM FOR THEMSELVES--AS MEMBERS OF A SINGLE SIDE, THAT OF HANOI, AND FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES AS A SINGLE DELEGATION.

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8. IN THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND NORTH VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATORS IT WAS MADE CLEAR THROUGH OUT THAT, WHOMEVER HANOI CHOSE TO BRING ON ITS SIDE, THE ARRANGEMENT INVOLVED NO ELEMENT OF RECOGNITION WHATEVER. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY THAT IT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE EITHER THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT OR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (NORTH VIETNAM). CONCERNING THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT IN PARTICULAR, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS AT ALL TIMES REGARDED IT AN EMANATION OF NORTH VIETNAM AND A TOOL OF HANOI'S AGGRESSION AGAINST THE RVN. THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT IS NOT IN ANY SENSE A SEPARATE ENTITY, MUCH LESS A GOVERNMENT.
9. FOLLOWING THE STOPPING OF THE BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM, IF HANOI FULFILLS ITS REPEATED UNDERTAKINGS TO ENTER INTO SERIOUS TALKS-- UNDERTAKINGS REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE CONTACTS BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS-- THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION MUST TALK DIRECTLY AND SERIOUSLY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S DELEGATION.
10. IN THE PARIS MEETINGS THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DELEGATION WILL PLAY A LEADING ROLE, AS WAS EXPLICITLY AFFIRMED IN THE HONOLULU COMMUNIQUE OF JULY. THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WILL TAKE THE LEAD AND BE THE PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN ON ALL MATTERS WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO SOUTH VIETNAM.
11. IN THE RESPECT OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OF RVN, PROBLEMS OF INTERNAL POLITICS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS PROPER SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THESE MEETINGS.
12. THE NEW PARIS MEETINGS WILL BE EXPECTED TO EXPLORE ALL AVENUES TO END COMMUNIST AGGRESSION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND TO REACH A SUBSEQUENT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THEY WILL START WITH A CLEAN SLATE, THE SOLE AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN REACHED IN THE EARLIER PARIS TALKS BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE AND UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES HAVE CONCERNED THE BOMBING HALT, THE CONVENING OF A NEW MEETINGS AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN THESE, IN PARTICULAR THOSE RELATING TO THE DMZ AND DISCRIMINATE ATTACKS AGAINST CITIES OR POPULATED AREAS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.
13. IN THE NEW MEETINGS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL OPERATE IN THE CLOSEST COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, AND IN CONTINUINO NONSULTATION WITH THE NATIONS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED MILITARY FORCES TO THE DEFENSE OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

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14. THE SUBSTANTIVE POSITION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE BASED ON THE MANILA COMMUNIQUE, THE HONOLULU COMMUNIQUE AND ON OTHER PUBLICLY STATED POSITIONS. IN PARTICULAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE WHATEVER, AND WILL BE NO CHANGE, IN THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TOWARD A SO-CALLED COALITION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT BELIEVE AGGRESSION SHOULD BE REWARDED AND WILL NOT RECOGNIZE ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT THAT IS NOT FREELY CHOSEN THROUGH DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL PROCESS BY THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIET-NAM. THE COMPOSITION OF ANY COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN CONFLICT WITH THIS PRINCIPLE.
END TEXT.
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